

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 572

By Bittle

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Jim and Joyce Sutton on the celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as examples for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 1970, James Sullivan Sutton and Barbara Joyce Holt were joined in holy matrimony at Mill's Creek Baptist Church, despite a number of mishaps and last-minute changes before the wedding, including the church catching on fire, the singer coming down with laryngitis, and the minister dying just two weeks before he was to marry them; and

WHEREAS, since that joyous day, this outstanding couple has overcome these obstacles and many more, facing the world as one and basking in the glow of their love for each other during both life's joys and sorrows; and

WHEREAS, the Suttons were introduced to each other by Jim's younger sister and Joyce's college friend, Judy. After announcing their engagement, Joyce told Judy that in ten years she would either hate her or love her; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Sutton are highly respected citizens of the Franklin community, where they are anticipating the completion of the construction of the home they

claim they will probably "go toes up in"; Joyce and Jim are the very epitome of good neighbors, as they always endeavor to treat others as they would like to be treated; and

WHEREAS, they have moved back and forth between Nashville and Knoxville at the whim of company transfers, obtaining a child each time they moved back to Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Jim served with acumen and alacrity at United Parcel Service, where he earned the respect of his peers and supervisors alike for the superior quality of his work. After nearly 30 years of honorable service with UPS, Jim accepted the company's offer of early retirement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, after two years of playing golf and driving Joyce crazy around the house, Jim embarked on a second career and opened two MailBoxes, Etc. franchises in the Franklin and Columbia areas; and

WHEREAS, although he is always "busier than a one-armed paper hanger," Jim claims to be doing great "for a man of his age and education" and continues to pursue making "his second million, because he gave up on his first"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sutton rendered admirable service at Sears for many years, and everything she says "you can take to the bank"; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple's praiseworthy marriage has produced two children, each of whom has excelled in her particular field of endeavor; the Suttons' children are Julie Leeann and Lisa Marie; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Joyce and Jim have relayed to their beautiful daughters many pearls of wisdom which Julie and Lisa have discovered to be true almost every time—although they would never make this admission to Joyce and Jim; Julie and Lisa wait patiently for the day when their parents finally become as smart as Jim has promised so many times; and

WHEREAS, for 30 years this blessed union has grown and prospered as an expression of time-honored family values and selfless love; the Suttons' marriage should serve as a benchmark for all couples to emulate; and

WHEREAS, still as affectionate with one another as when they were courting, Joyce and Jim constantly gross their daughters out with their public displays of affection; and

WHEREAS, loving the Lord and endeavoring to lead exemplary Christian lives, Mr. and Mrs. Sutton faithfully worship the Lord as active and devout members of Berry's Chapel Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, marriages such as the Suttons' truly represent the best and brightest of our society, as they remind us of the intrinsic value of continuity and commitment in this ever-changing world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor and congratulate Jim and Joyce Sutton on the celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for much continued happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.